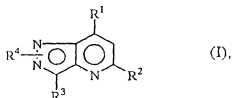


ABSTRACT

CRF ANTAGONISTIC PYRAZOLO[4,3-B]PYRIDINES

This invention concerns compounds of formula



including the stereoisomers and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition forms thereof, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl, NR⁵R⁶, OR⁶ or SR⁶; R² is C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, or C₁₋₆alkylthio; R³ is Ar¹ or Het¹; R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, mono- or di(C₃₋₆cycloalkyl)methyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆alkenyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl; R⁶ is C₁₋₆alkyl, mono- or di(C₃₋₆cycloalkyl)methyl, Ar²C₁₋₆alkyl, Ar²oxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆alkenyl, thienylmethyl, furanylmethyl, tetrahydrofuranylmethyl, C₁₋₆alkylthioC₁₋₆alkyl, mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, or C₁₋₆alkylcarbonylC₁₋₆alkyl; or R⁵ and R⁶ taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached may form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, morpholinyl, or thiomorpholinyl group, optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl; and Ar¹ and Ar² are each optionally substituted phenyl; and Het¹ is optionally substituted pyridinyl; having CRF receptor antagonistic properties; pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds as active ingredients; methods of treating disorders related to hypersecretion of CRF such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, by administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I).